

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 15, 20, 25 and 29 have been amended.

In the most recent rejection, claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-16, 18-21, 23-26 and 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Byford et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,909,671 (hereinafter “Byford”). Claims 5, 12, 17 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Byford in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,280,581 to Bathrick (“Bathrick”). Claim 27-28 and 31-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Byford in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,896,512 to Einbinder (hereinafter “Einbinder”).

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Embodiments of the present invention pertain to a mechanism to assign ownership of a web site to a user where previously at least one phone number is associated with the user-specific website. For example, claim 1 refers to a system where a website request is performed at a system website establishing a website claim to the user-specific website, and confirming that website claim by a telephone call where a phone number detection device verifies at least one phone number associated with the user-specific website. Claims 1, 8, 15, and 20 have been amended to bring out this feature of the present invention.

For example, claim 1 refers to :

“the website request is performed at a system website in response to a request by the user” and

“the website claim is confirmed by receiving at the phone call receiving device a phone call from the user, where the at least one phone number associated with said user specific website is verified by the phone number detection device.”

Byford does not teach or suggest these features of the presently claimed invention. Byford teaches a mechanism to implement the equivalent of a 900 number charging system for web site usage. In particular, some web site pages are accessible to all (i.e., free), and some web site pages are only available to selected individuals (i.e., those who have paid, registered, etc.). The system of Byford uses two telephone numbers. The first number is used to identify the specific web site and is assigned by the owner of that web-site. The second number is used to identify the person to bill for the web site usage and is specified by the web site user. There is no confirmation/validation mechanism in Byford to determine that the user is authorized to make charges to the second number.

Looking at Col. 4, lines 56-58, each WWW page is mapped to a premium rate telephone number. As known in the art, calls to a 900 number result in a charge to a user's telephone account (e.g., on a per minute basis). However, in Byford, a call is not made to such a 900 number. Instead, a user accesses a WWW page that is mapped to the premium rate telephone number. The user, however, is to be charged for accessing such a “controlled” page. Accordingly, at Col. 5, lines 1-6, when the user accesses the controlled page, he/she provides a PIN corresponding to his/her personal telephone number. As indicated at Col. 5, lines 27-36, the access to the web-page is then charged as if the user has called a particular 900 number using her/her personal telephone.

The Office Action cites mostly to the Summary of the Invention section of Byford, which uses general “means” terms and the like. However, the description therein corresponds to the Detailed Description of Byford. Thus, there is nothing, for example, in Col. 2, lines 15-35 which refers to means for receiving a telephone call (or a phone call receiving device as recited in pending claim 1). “Means in the server for identifying a subscriber telephone number associated with the request” refers to the entry of the PIN number as described above and not to the receipt of an actual telephone call and the detection of a phone number with a phone number detection device. Note that Col. 2, lines 36-43 specifically refers to a “virtual telephone call” because no actual phone call by the user is taking place. Instead, the server instructs the telephone utility to register this “virtual” call (which is, in fact, controlled access to a WWW page).

In claims 25 and 29, a website request is performed at a system website resulting in a personal identification number being sent to a phone call data receiving device where the receiving device is accessed through a phone number associated with the user-specific website. Claims 25 and 29 have been amended to bring out this feature of the present invention. The provided personal id number can be used, for example, to complete the claiming of the website by entering it at the website. As noted above, Byford does not refer to actual phone calls, and does not describe the particular features of these claims.

The Bathrick and Einbinder references also do not disclose these features and are not relied upon to show these features.

Since features of each of the pending claims are not taught or suggested by the cited references, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. **11-0600**.

Respectfully submitted,

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